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REPORTS OF CASES ARISING UPON LETTERS-PATENT FOR INVENTIONS, determined in the Circuit Courts of the United States. By SAMUEL S. FISHER, Counsellor-at-Law. Vol. I., 8vo., pp. 700. Cincinnati: Robt. Clarke & Co., Printers. 1867. \$25.

It is not often that an active and very successful practitioner steps aside from his daily treadmill of practice to try his hand in the equally laborious but different task of reporting. It was therefore with much pleasure and some curiosity that we took up the above substantial volume from the pen of one of the busiest members of the profession. Being reports of cases upon a special department of the law, with which we have only the most limited acquaintance, we do not propose to say much upon the decisions, though we have read many of them with an interest akin to that excited by a romantic chapter in history. "There is not a case in the books," says a brilliant and witty pamphleteer, unfortunately anonymous, "that does not stand like an Alpine cross to mark the scene of some tragic event;" and no one can look through this volume without feeling impressed with the labors, the trials, the disappointments, and the only occasional triumphs of inventors even in this land of ready appreciation of mechanical genius. We meet here also with more or less fulness, the history of the principal American inventions that have attracted public attention in the last twenty years, among which we may name the Electric Telegraph, the Sewing Machine, the Reaping Machine, the Repeating Fire-Arms of various kinds all founded on the yet unrivalled Colt's Revolver, the Goodyear India Rubber, Fire-Proof Safes, Janus Faced Locks, and others perhaps only a little less important though not popularly so well known.

The design of the reporter is, we believe, to collect all the unreported cases upon patents, hitherto decided in the courts of the United States, and to do this it has been found necessary to add a second volume. This will give the profession a complete body of American patent law so far as it has been the subject of judicial exposition, and the workers in this specialty are under very great obligations to Mr. Fisher for the thorough, laborious, and satisfactory manner in which he has performed his work. The cases are arranged chronologically, and are admirably reported with as much brevity as the intricacy of statement required to make clear the points involved, would permit. Incidentally a good deal of law is contained in the book, not exclusively applicable to patents, much of course that is not new, but much that may be read with profit even by the general practitioner.

In conclusion we may say that the book, which is printed by Messrs. Clarke & Co. for the reporter, is by far the handsomest piece of work that we have ever seen from the Western press, and would do credit to any publishing house in the country. On one point only we are forced to give it our condemnation, and that is the deep pink tint of the paper, which we found exceedingly trying to the eye, especially at night.

We understand that a very small edition has been printed, and advise libraries and patent lawyers to be prompt in securing the few remaining copies.

J. T. M.